

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-13 and 17-30 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 14-16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 4 and 17 are amended.

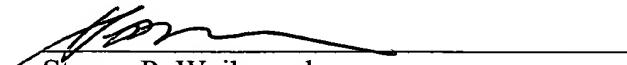
In response to the Office Action, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested. The Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 17 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In addition, claims 5-13 and 18-30 are allowed.

By the present amendment, claims 4 and 17 are rewritten in independent form, including the subject matter of their respective base claims and intervening claims. Accordingly, the present application includes only claims indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Steven P. Weihrouch
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 32,829

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)